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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/774,412	02/10/2004	Hitoshi Miyano	25-262	9894

7590 06/27/2005

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Great Falls, VA 22066

EXAMINER

SUGARMAN, SCOTT J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2873

DATE MAILED: 06/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/774,412

Applicant(s)

MIYANO

Examiner

Scott J. Sugarman

Art Unit

2873

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2-10-04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fujii (JP 2003029142A). Fujii teaches (in Embodiment 1; Fig. 1) an endoscope objective having a three-group, three-lens construction having, in order from the object side, a first lens element of negative refractive power and either a meniscus or plano-concave shape with its concave surface on the image side; a stop; a second lens element of positive refractive power and a plano-convex shape with its convex surface on the image side; and a third lens element of positive refractive power and a plano-convex shape with its convex surface on the object side. In Fujii, (col. 4, lines 28-39), the first condition of $|f_1 / f|$ is 2.03 which is between the claimed values of 2.00 and 3.00. In Fujii, (col. 4, lines 28-39), the second condition of $|f_1 / D_2|$ is 5.88 which is between the claimed values of 2.50 and 7.5. In Fujii, (col. 4, lines 28-39), the third condition of $|D_3 / R_4|$ is

0.91 which is less than 1.00. The index of the first lens element is greater than 1.8 (1.883).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujii. Fujii teach the recited structure and numerical limitation as recited above. However, Fujii does not specifically teach that the lens elements can be made by a molding process or a grinding process. Since these are the generally the only way lenses are made (by molding or grinding), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make the lenses of Fujii by molding or grinding.

Conclusion

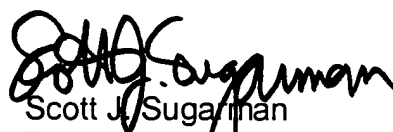
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Michaels (US 6,038,079) is cited to show an objective system for an endoscope having the claimed structure in Embodiments 8, 9 and 11 (Figs. 8, 9 and 11). In Michaels, the index of refraction for sapphire that was used in the calculations was 1.76. However, Michaels does not meet all of the conditions as recited in claim 1.

Nagaoka (US 6,256,155), Kikuchi (US 5,359,456) and Igarashi (US 5,119,238) are all cited to show some similar structure utilized in endoscope objectives.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Scott J. Sugarman whose telephone number is (571)272-2340.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Scott J. Sugarman
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2873

sj
June 23, 2005